

the best of conditions. If morale should be permitted to suffer unnecessarily, especially in the face of the police manpower shortages which already exist, this city could find itself in real trouble.

STATEMENT OF MAYOR WALTER E. WASHINGTON, FEBRUARY 8, 1968

I highly approve of the accompanying joint statement by Public Safety Director Patrick V. Murphy and Chief of Police John B. Layton.

I am delighted they have pledged a team effort to serve the city and fight the menace of crime in our community.

Unity is all important in the Police Department's job of combatting the District's appalling crime rate.

The citizens can be reassured that the job of protecting the community is in the hands of a strengthened police department, which now has the combined experience of Public Safety Director Murphy, Chief Layton and Assistant Chief Jerry V. Wilson, in his new role as head of Field Operations.

Our top law enforcement officials are together in their resolve to fight the common enemy—crime in our city.

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA NEWS RELEASE, FEBRUARY 8, 1968

The following statement was released jointly today, by Director of Public Safety, Patrick V. Murphy, and Chief of Police John B. Layton.

The assignment of Jerry V. Wilson as Assistant Chief for Field Operations in no manner diminishes the authority and functions of the Chief of Police, John B. Layton. Chief Layton continues as the operating head of the Metropolitan Police Department.

Assistant Chief of Police Howard V. Covell continues in the number two position in the Department, Executive Officer.

Assistant Chief Wilson has filled one of the four Assistant Chief positions and will be responsible for one of the four major functions of the Department.

The Director of Public Safety, Patrick V. Murphy, is responsible for policy formulation and program development in the Police Department, as well as in the Fire Department and Office of Civil Defense, the three agencies which come under his control. The creation of the position of Director of Public Safety has strengthened and facilitated police operations by placing a representative of the Department in the Mayor's Office to speak for it on important policy questions, such as budget requests, manpower and equipment needs, salary and working conditions and other matters.

Director Murphy stated: "I repeat what I have said publicly many times since my appointment. I would not have accepted this position if I did not consider Chief Layton an able, experienced and dedicated police chief. He has been of great assistance in familiarizing me with the operations of the Police Department. We have worked closely and harmoniously in planning the efforts of the Department for the future. I look forward to a continuing fruitful working relationship, and appreciate Chief Layton's pledge of loyal support in our attempt to make this fine police department ever better."

Chief Layton stated: "I have long had great pride in the Metropolitan Police Department and the accomplishments of its members over the years. I am proud to be its Chief.

"In these times of great change I have looked forward with confidence to what I think can be greater accomplishments for our city under Mayor Washington and Deputy Mayor Fletcher as they move to reorganize and revitalize our City Government.

"In this connection, my role as operating head of the Department was made clear by Mayor Washington on the appointment of Mr. Murphy as Public Safety Director and has been reaffirmed by both Mr. Murphy and the Mayor's Office.

"I pledge to the Mayor, his Deputy, Director of Public Safety and the citizens of this community my best efforts to make this excellent Department an even better one."